

# God our Shepherd: An Introduction

Gen 48:15,16; 49:22-26

# Intro:

- Many pictures of God
  - Warrior, Judge, Savior, Provider, Lord
  - But none are like the picture of our Great Shepherd
- Shepherds have been used all thru Scripture
  - Rachel (Ewe) is the first mentioned... (Ge 29:9)
  - Abel (?), Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and David
- Jacob is preparing for his death
  - Leaving behind a heritage, a legacy...
  - Leave other things... things I did – never enough..

# I. God of Promise

- God of my Fathers (15) – Joseph’s sons (E & M)
  - This connects us with the generations gone before
  - We each have those we look at who remind us...
  - Abraham and Isaac had walked before the Lord
  - The God they had is the One we want...
- God my Shepherd
  - Even in all Jacob had gone thru, he saw this work
  - Jacob turns his eulogy into a **YOU**-logy, it’s about HIM
  - Looking back we will see clearly what God has done
  - And we will want that same care of our loved ones

## II. God of Future

- Jacob then blesses all the sons (Ge 49)
  - Prophetic blessings concerning each tribe
  - Joseph is saved till the end, with Benjamin (Rachel's)
  - 23-25 mention Joseph's struggles, victories...
  - From the 'Abiyir (Mighty), Shepherd, Stone, El Shaddai
  - God has been his hope and victory, not Joseph!
  - The God who helps; the God who Blesses (25,26)
  - All tied to the Shepherd theme...
  - All looking forward to the Great Shepherd, Jesus

# III. God of Sheep

- Ps 28:9 Save Your people and bless Your inheritance;  
Be their shepherd also, and carry them forever.
- Ps 78:71 From the care of the ewes with suckling lambs  
He brought him To shepherd Jacob His people, And  
Israel His inheritance.
- Ps 78:72 So he shepherded them according to the  
integrity of his heart, And guided them with his skillful  
hands. **[of David]**
- Ps 80:1 Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel, You who lead  
Joseph like a flock; You who are enthroned above the  
cherubim, shine forth!

# III. God of Sheep (Cont'd)

- Isa 40:11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.
- Jer 31:10 Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, And declare in the coastlands afar off, And say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him And keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock."
- Eze 34:12 "As a shepherd cares for his herd in the day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day.

# Connections:

- Sheep need such care; for without the shepherd
  - Nu 27:17; 2Ch 18:16; Je 10:21; 23:1,2; 50:6; Ez 34:2ff
  - Without care: scattered, hungry ,torn, lost - Is 53:6
  - Jacob knew the Great Shepherd.. His YOU-logy to us!
- Great Sections of the Bible call us to more:
  - Ps 23
  - John 10
- Let us allow the Shepherd His Way in our lives
- Let us follow Him...